

University, an advanced five-year Conference Course of Study. He served the nation for four years of in the United States Navy and was honorably discharged in 1963.

Reverend Williams has established a legacy by designing and implementing programs to enhance the education and spiritual needs of the youth in the Houston community. He believes that simple instruction and guidance from the church can make a huge difference in the lives of young people, leading him to serve on the Board of Directors of One Church-One Child; Advisory Committee of Sunnyside Multi-Purpose Center and Health Center; and the Prison Ministry-Innnerchange Freedom Initiative program, Jester II Unit, Sugarland Texas. Additionally, he has served on numerous boards and conferences, including the Board of Directors of the Wesley Foundation of Texas Southern University and the University of Houston; Conference Board of Stewardship; and the Finance Committee of Black Methodist for Church Renewal.

In all that he has done, Reverend Williams has remained very active in the United Methodist Church (UMC) at the state level, having served in State Conferences for the past 27 years under six appointments. His prior appointments include, Adkins Memorial UMC; East Hempstead Circuit, Harper UMC; St. Thomas UMC; Shaw Tabernacle; St. Andrews UMC; and Blueridge UMC where he has served 12 years. In honor of his dedication to successfully cultivating and building spiritual foundations throughout the State of Texas, Reverend Williams was ordained Deacon in 1989 at the UMC Annual Conference and then Elder in 1997.

Mr. Speaker, Reverend Williams has been a leader in our community and I congratulate him on providing 28 years of service within the United Methodist Church and for his successful spiritual guidance to many.

COMMENDING MR. CAMILO
DUARTE

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2002

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and commend a constituent of mine, Mr. Camilo Duarte, for the work he is doing to help Colombian Americans and Colombian immigrants in the United States. Mr. Duarte is in Washington, DC this week, meeting with Members and congressional staff, to discuss the worsening crisis in Colombia, and specifically, activities by the FARC terrorist group in Colombia.

Mr. Speaker, my community perhaps more than any other in the United States, is witness to the crisis in Colombia. There is a growing Colombian immigrant community in the United States, numbering more than 280,000 in just Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties of South Florida. Many of them have already become U.S. citizens. They are mothers and fathers, children, students, businessmen, middle class professionals, and workers all seeking a better life. They are hard-working immigrants which I welcome to my community just as I have welcomed others fleeing communist insurgencies in Latin America, or coming to America seeking a better life for their children.

These immigrants are fleeing the violence in Colombia in ever-increasing numbers and the migration will not stop until the terrorists are defeated in Colombia. These immigrants are firsthand witnesses to terrorism, narcotrafficking, kidnapping and random violence by the Colombian terrorists, which seek to overthrow, with assistance from the Cuban dictatorship, the elected government of Colombia.

Mr. Speaker, we should listen to what the Colombian American community, and their leaders, can tell us. I welcome Mr. Duarte to Washington, DC and look forward to working with him on issues of mutual concern.

TRIBUTE TO MIRIAM (PAT)
ESTELLE LAPPLE

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2002

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Miriam (Pat) Estelle Lapple, a dear friend, constituent, community leader and public servant who will be celebrating her 70th birthday on June 9.

Pat was born in St. Bernard, Ohio on June 9, 1932. She grew up during the Great Depression in the town of Woodlawn, attended Woodlawn Elementary, and then went on to Reading High School. Without a doubt, Pat has lived an active and full life over the past 70 years.

Following high school, Pat married and started a family. She stayed home with her children for 12 years before going back to work for the next 40 plus years.

Pat has always been very dedicated to our community. Among her work and activities, Pat was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star for over 30 years, serving as Worthy Matron (President) in 1970 and again in 1972. Pat also wrote the Reading Social News, a column which appeared in the Valley Courier for 19 years. For the past 9 years, she has served as Clerk of Council for the Reading City Council.

Pat also has been a member of the Reading Republican Club since 1989. She was President of the Club in 1992. In 1995, she was the Reading Republican of the Year.

Other activities include her past volunteer work at Hilltop School, where she taught disadvantaged kindergarteners in the Early I.D. program, and her service as a liturgist at St. John United Church of Christ.

Pat has a great sense of humor, and 5 children, 11 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren and, in her words, "two really spoiled dogs." She is a wonderful person, and her beloved Reading, Ohio is fortunate to have her. All of us in the Cincinnati area recognize Pat's outstanding service and contributions to our community.

AIR TRAFFIC RETIREMENT
REFORM ACT OF 2002

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2002

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce the Air Traffic Retirement Reform

Act of 2002. This legislation will grant air traffic controllers, and more specifically air traffic controller supervisors, the same treatment that federal firefighters and law enforcement officers (LEOs) receive under the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) and the Federal Employment Retirement System (FERS).

Both the CSRS and the FERS provide early retirement benefits and require mandatory separation for safety-related occupations, including federal firefighters, LEOs and air traffic controllers. Under both CSRS and FERS, firefighters/LEOs and controllers are eligible for retirement after 25 years of service or after becoming 50 years old and completing 20 years of service. Additionally, the annuities for firefighters, LEOs and controllers are higher than ordinary federal employees under CSRS and FERS.

However, the current definition of an air traffic controller in both CSRS and FERS is limited to people who are actively engaged in directing air traffic or their immediate supervisors. As a result, air traffic controllers who are promoted to staff specialists or second level managers before they are eligible to retire lose all benefits currently guaranteed controllers under CSRS and FERS. Yet, firefighters and LEOs that are promoted to management positions do not need to make a similar sacrifice.

The Air Traffic Retirement Reform Act of 2002 amends the CSRS and FERS to provide a more expansive two-tier definition of air traffic controllers. The new definition will include both employees covered under the current definition of air traffic controllers and second level supervisors. Second level supervisors would be eligible for the same retirement benefits available to line-controllers.

The Air Traffic Retirement Reform Act of 2002 provides fairness and parity, between air traffic controllers and other federal safety professionals.

THE FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT
PAY EQUITY AND REFORM
ACT OF 2002

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2002

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, during National Law Enforcement Memorial Week, to introduce the Federal Law Enforcement Pay Equity and Reform Act of 2002.

Mr. Speaker, this week in our nation's capital and around America, a variety of events are being held to honor law enforcement officers who lost their lives in the line of duty and those who continue to serve. The very real dangers faced by the dedicated men and women who protect us every day was brought home as never before last September 11.

While we cannot turn back the clock and undo what was done, we can and must do everything within our power to ensure that it never happens again. And it is our law enforcement officers, and, in particular, our federal law enforcement agencies, that are charged with that paramount mission. The bill I am introducing today will help accomplish this goal by enhancing and modernizing the compensation system for our nation's federal law enforcement officers.